Developing Interpersonalism in Historical Context: Sullivan, Thompson, Fromm and the Pioneers of Interpersonal Psychoanalysis

Instructor: Phillip Blumberg, Ph.D.

Bulletin Description:
This course provides an opportunity for candidates to think as psychoanalysts about the persons, lives, and social conditions that inspired the development of interpersonal ideas in psychoanalysis. Ferenczi, for example, weighing mutuality in the analytic dyad and pondered what Sullivan would see as participant observation. Fromm and Thompson considered adaptation to, vs. confrontation of, extant cultural norms. Fromm-Reichmann posed the nature of being with another in the face of existential aloneness. Discussion will explore the thoughts of these and other writers via several contexts: their unique personalities, the zeitgeist of their professional lives, and the liveliness of their current relevance to our consulting rooms.

Course Objectives:
1) To understand the historical development of interpersonalism as both outgrowth and critique of classical psychoanalysis.
2) To identify major ideas of major interpersonal thinkers.
3) To see theory in relation to theorist’s personalities and historival context.

Trimester: Fall
Dates and Times:
Tuesdays, 7:15 PM—8:30 PM
October 25, 2016-January 10, 2017

Presentation: Candidates are encouraged to present case material relevant to concerns raised in the readings. Each class participant will be asked to comment on a specific reading.

Class 10/25/2016—Interpersonal Psychoanalysis and its American Context.

Required Readings:

Supplementary Readings:


Class 2 11/01/2016-- Sándor Ferenczi –Trauma and New Technical Challenges

Required Readings:


Supplementary Readings:


**Class 3: 11/08/2016  Ferenczi – Clinical Contributions and Mutual Analysis**

**Required Readings:**


**Supplementary Readings:**


**Class 4: 11/15/2016  Harry Stack Sullivan, Psychiatrist of America**

**Required Readings:**


Supplementary Readings:


Class 5: 11/22/2016 Clara Thompson and the Person of the Analyst in Therapeutic Action

Required Readings:


Recommended Readings:


Class 6: 11/29/2016 Frieda Fromm-Reichmann and the Rose Garden

Required Readings:

**Supplementary Readings:**


**Class 7. 12/06/2016 Erich Fromm: Social Character and the Immediacy of Experience**

*Required Reading:*


**Supplementary Reading:**


**Class 8. 12/13/2016  Simply More Human**

**Required Reading:**


*Supplementary Reading:*


**Class 9. 12/20/2016 Symptom and Character**

*Required Reading:*


*Supplementary Reading:*


Class 10. 01/10/2017 The Revisioning of Analytic Identity: Implications for the Training of the Interpersonal Psychoanalyst

Required Reading:


Supplementary reading:


